

Jeff Strack is the President and CEO of Indiana Grocery Group/Strack & Van Til. Last year, when the parent company Central Grocers filed for bankruptcy, Strack & Van Til was forced to shut down numerous stores. Jeff was not going to lose the family business that has been around for almost six decades. After he and a group of investors formed Indiana Grocery Group and put together a successful bid to buy back Strack & Van Til, Mr. Strack vowed to keep it a family-owned business. Today, under Jeff's leadership, the grocery chain has twenty locations in communities throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition, Mr. Strack is focused on providing good jobs and assisting charitable organizations throughout the region.

Terry McMahon is the owner and president of the successful accounting firm, McMahon and Associates, in Munster. Terry started his company in the 1970's with only himself and a part-time typist. Munster was a growing community at that time, and as the town developed, the company continued to grow. Today, McMahon and Associates consists of thirty employees and three partners, serving 600 businesses and handling approximately 1,300 personal income tax returns. Terry attributes his success to the development of positive relationships with clients and his outstanding employees. In addition, Mr. McMahon is known for his generosity and gives back to the community through various charitable endeavors.

In 1983, Scott Albanese, owner and CEO of the Albanese Confectionery Group, opened his first candy store in Merrillville. After years of hard work and dedication, in 2000, Scott opened his second location, which has become the successful and popular Albanese Candy Factory and Outlet Store in Hobart. Under Mr. Albanese's direction, the company manufactures its own products, operates internationally, and continues to grow.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Mono Sol, a division of Kuraray, a Japanese company that acquired the business in 2012. MonoSol produces a patented water-soluble film used in numerous products and markets. Operating since 1953, the company has grown exponentially since the TidePod was introduced by Proctor & Gamble in 2012. Under the direction of its CEO, P. Scott Bening, MonoSol has doubled its workforce since 2012 and is currently headquartered in Merrillville. MonoSol also maintains a plant in La Porte and two manufacturing facilities currently located in Portage. The company has diversified into other areas of its market including agricultural and packaging materials, as well as synthetic marble for stone products used in home construction. MonoSol has been a tremendous asset to the community of Northwest Indiana, and Mr. Bening is focused on growing the company in the region, a community of which he is very proud to be a part.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and commitment to the region and beyond, each of them is worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JOHN
DESIMONE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, John DeSimone, for his exemplary Military service during the Korean war, and his steadfast commitment to his family and his community.

Born in New York City on June 3, 1931, John DeSimone lived in lower Manhattan until he moved to Astoria in 1969 with his wife, Mary Ellen Sapanaro DeSimone. They were married for 45 years until her passing in 2015. They share a daughter, Maria, who lives with her husband in a separate apartment of the same home.

On November 15, 1951, John DeSimone was drafted and entered the U.S. Army. He completed Army Basic Training at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, now known as Fort Dix, and served in the Transportation Corps of the U.S. Army in the 13th Field Artillery Regiment, Ordnance Transportation Company.

Private First Class DeSimone served with honor and conducted assigned tasks above the call of duty in combat conditions. PFC DeSimone was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Merit Unit Commendation. He was awarded three Bronze Stars with his Korean Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service in support during the most hostile period of the Korean war. PFC DeSimone's outstanding performance, expertise, and unwavering commitment to mission accomplishment in a hostile environment were vital to successful combat operations. His contributions and dedication to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on November 4, 1953 after serving 1 year, 11 months, and 20 days.

Prior to his service, John DeSimone had worked as a runner for the New York Stock Exchange and later returned to the NYSE following his honorable discharge. He worked as a runner for the NYSE for forty more years. After retiring, Mr. DeSimone continued to serve others as a school crossing guard for fifteen years and an Elder in Steinway Reformed Church, where he was involved with the Ministry as a devout Protestant. When he later developed Alzheimer's, Mr. DeSimone began attending day programs at Sunnyside Community Service and NYU Horticultural program, where he was actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, John DeSimone's service to his family, his community, and his country is an inspiration to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent, John DeSimone, and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF KEVIN KREMER

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Kevin Kremer, and his

tireless devotion to educating and training students. Throughout his 28 year career in education, Kevin has mentored and guided countless number of students both in and out of the classroom.

As a cross country and track & field coach, Kevin has inspired student athletes to reach their fullest potential while instilling in them a team-first attitude.

For 18 years Kevin coordinated trips to Washington, D.C. for Zeeland Public School students. With his careful attention to every detail involved in these trips, including reservations for hotels and airlines, loading metro passes, and scheduling activities in and around Washington, D.C., Kevin created opportunities and lifelong memories for students from all walks of life.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin Kremer dedicated his life to educating and inspiring the future leaders of this nation. It is thus fitting and proper that we celebrate and honor his service here today. I extend my deepest gratitude to Kevin for his years of selfless service, and I offer my congratulations on a job well done.

IN HONOR OF VICKIE JASMANN
FOR WINNING THE 2018 WYOMING
JEFFERSON AWARD

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vickie Jasmann on winning the 2018 Wyoming Jefferson Award. She deserves to be very proud of this prestigious recognition.

The Jefferson Award is the most revered award for public service in Wyoming. It was created with the goal of honoring individuals who enrich the communities and may otherwise go unnoticed. The award emphasizes the importance of serving local communities and that one person can indeed make a difference. In Wyoming, a panel of five judges independently score nominated individuals and determine four finalists, including one winner.

Vickie Jasmann is a true inspiration to all who know her. She is a force for good in the Casper, Wyoming community. Her service started at a young age and only grew from there. When she was growing up, her family installed a phone line in their house for the American Cancer Society because there was no office in town. Her mother also helped start the local Relay for Life chapter. She has continued her work for the two organizations, motivated by her own battle with cancer and others she has lost along the way.

Vickie also works with the American Legion Auxiliary to support her fellow veterans and serves as a foster parent. She has fostered also 200 children over 10 years, including one that she adopted.

Vickie volunteers wherever she is needed, whether it be for organizations, festivals, or members of the community in need. She participates in theater productions at the Senior Center, served as a greeter at the Help the Homeless project, and was a Certified Tourist Ambassador during the Eclipse Festival. She also helps elderly members of the community with errands and picks up single mothers' children when needed.